



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office of Public Affairs

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Governor Beshear announces funding for preservation of historic 'Traveler's Rest' in Lincoln County

Project will protect home of Isaac Shelby, Kentucky's first governor

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Gov. Steve Beshear today announced that \$750,000 in Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding will be awarded to Lincoln County Fiscal Court to secure a scenic/historic preservation easement on historic Traveler's Rest, the farm settled by Kentucky's first governor, Isaac Shelby, in Lincoln County.

"The protection of Traveler's Rest will preserve for all Kentuckians a priceless connection to our commonwealth's past," said the Governor. "This preservation easement will afford visitors the opportunity to step back in time and appreciate the landscape that was so highly valued by early Kentuckians."

On the National Register of Historic Places since 1976, Traveler's Rest was granted by the first recorded deed in the Kentucky Territory of Virginia in 1779 by the Virginia Land Commission. The deed rests in Richmond, Va., and was signed by Governor – later President – Thomas Jefferson. The Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation identified Traveler's Rest as an endangered historic asset in 2005.

Isaac Shelby made the original claim of 1,400 acres, named the farm, served with distinction in the military, and went on to serve two terms as Governor of Kentucky. He is buried in the family cemetery at Traveler's Rest.

"Traveler's Rest is a significant historical asset to Kentucky," said state Sen. Ed Worley (D-Richmond). "It's incumbent upon all of us to make every possible effort to preserve this property for future generations of Kentuckians to enjoy. I can think of no better use for Transportation Enhancement funds."

In 2005 Worley introduced a resolution declaring Traveler's Rest a property worthy of preservation for its historic value. Senate Resolution 173 requested that the Kentucky Heritage Council, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Kentucky Department of

Parks work to help acquire the resources necessary for the preservation of the property in its historic state.

Traveler's Rest is on historic Knob Lick Pike in Lincoln County, one of Kentucky's first turnpikes. The road was built by Shelby. The farm and the Isaac Shelby Family Cemetery State Historic Site are part of a cluster of significant history-related tourist destinations in the area that attract tens of thousands of visitors annually. That cluster includes Constitution Square and several historic buildings in Danville, as well as Perryville Battlefield.

"Being one of the first three counties created in Kentucky, folks here in Lincoln County are naturally very proud of our rich heritage," said County Judge-Executive R.W. "Buckwheat" Gilbert. "We are very grateful to the Transportation Cabinet and Governor Beshear for the funding to secure the conservation easements, which will help us preserve this special property for future generations."

Transportation Enhancements are transportation-related activities designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, historic, and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure. Federal funding is available to government agencies to provide support for transportation and community improvement projects. TE funding is administered by the Transportation Cabinet.

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